

09-14-04

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Attorney Docket No. 5697-62

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: DeYoung et al.

Confirmation No.: 9658

Application No.: 10/681,515

Group Art Unit: 1762

Filed: October 8, 2003

Examiner: Kirsten Jolley

For: *Method of Coating Microelectronic Substrates*

Date: September 13, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This response is submitted in reply to the Official Action dated August 13, 2004 ("the Action"). In the Action, the Examiner required a restriction for:

- Group I. Claims 1-7, drawn to a method of coating a microelectronic substrate by filling a vessel with a first supercritical fluid and then adding a separate compressed gas, classified in class 427, subclass 336;
- Group II. Claims 8-22, drawn to a method of depositing a film of material by coating a substrate with a reactive component from a supercritical or near-supercritical fluid and then conversion to a stable film, classified in class 427, subclass 337;
- Group III. Claims 23-32, drawn to a method of depositing a film of material by coating a substrate with a reactive component from liquid CO₂ and then chemical conversion to a stable film, classified in class 427, subclass 337.

Applicant hereby elects the claims of Group I (Claims 1-7) for substantive examination.

The Restriction Requirement as to the claims of Groups II and III is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that a search of the claims of Group I would encompass the claims of Groups II and III, such that no undue burden would be presented to the USPTO to search all claims in a single application.

It is respectfully submitted that the requirement for an election of species set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Official Action is moot in light of the response to the Restriction Requirement above, as the claims of Group I do not recite any species of chemically converted material or "chemical conversion to a stable film." Should Applicants have misunderstood the



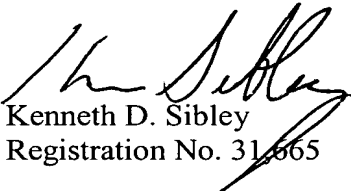
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election requirement, and an election of species still be required, then Applicants elect copper as the chemically converted material and displacing said liquid solution with a gas.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for substantive examination, which action is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time for the accompanying response or submission is required, Applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee, which may be required, or credit any refund, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

Respectfully submitted,


Kenneth D. Sibley
Registration No. 31,665

Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.
P. O. Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: (919) 854-1400
Facsimile: (919) 854-1401
Customer Number 20792

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